

away an individual's rights to equal protection under the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, nor do they take away one's due process rights afforded under the 5th or 14th. If this bill did such a thing, I would strongly oppose it.

I want to thank everyone for reaching out to the office to voice their concerns on this bill. I want to assure them that I always have, and always will, listen to their concerns and address them in a timely fashion. I know this bill is not perfect. In fact, I proposed two amendments to prevent the President from transferring foreign terrorists to the U.S. to be prosecuted in the Federal court system, and I joined with Senators DEMINT, COBURN, and LEE to vote against cloture. However, in regard to the assertions that this bill allows the U.S. military to supplant our local police departments or that it allows the Federal Government to detain otherwise law-abiding citizens for simply carrying on in their daily lives, those assertions are entirely unfounded. As always, if anyone has any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to a period of morning business for the duration of 1 hour.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. I would ask to be notified when 10 minutes is up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will let the Senator know when 10 minutes is up.

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. GRAHAM. I would like to do a colloquy with my good friend from Connecticut.

Senator LIEBERMAN said something that I think we need to sort of absorb. As the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, does the Senator believe the likelihood of American citizens being recruited, enlisted, and radicalized on behalf of al-Qaida is going up? Is that what the Senator is trying to tell us?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I say to my friend from South Carolina, I not only believe it, but it is shown by the facts.

I wish I had the numbers exactly in front of me. But if we chart attempts at terrorist attacks on the United States—and here I am limiting it to people who are affiliated with the global Islamist extremist movement—there

were a few after 9/11, but in the last 2 or 3 years, the numbers have gone up dramatically.

I hasten to say these represent a very small percentage of the Muslim-American community. But of course it doesn't take too many people to cause great havoc. We have been effective at law enforcement and, frankly, we have been lucky that all but two of these attempts have been stopped. But I think we would find law enforcement officials, Homeland Security officials saying the toughest and most dangerous threat right now to the homeland security of the American people comes from homegrown terrorists who have been self-radicalized or radicalized by somebody else.

Mr. GRAHAM. I think that is important for us to understand. Does the Senator agree with me that when we look at the war on terror, the United States is part of the battlefield?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Well, there is no question our enemies have declared it part of the battlefield. The very official commencement of the war against Islamist terrorism, 9/11, was an attack on America's homeland, on civilians.

Mr. GRAHAM. So let's just go with that thought for a moment.

Let's say our intelligence community, our law enforcement community, and our military/Department of Defense are all monitoring al-Qaida threats at home and abroad; does the Senator agree with that?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Absolutely true. Al-Qaida and like Islamist terrorist groups.

Mr. GRAHAM. Under the Posse Comitatus Act, the military cannot be used for domestic law enforcement functions. Does the Senator agree with me that tracking al-Qaida operatives—citizen or not—within the United States is not a law enforcement function; it is a military function?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. It is a combination, truthfully.

Mr. GRAHAM. But our military has the ability to defend us against al-Qaida attacks at home, such as they do abroad.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Right.

Mr. GRAHAM. So if the Department of Defense somehow intercepted information about an al-Qaida cell, let's say in Connecticut or South Carolina, could they be involved in suppressing that cell?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I would say what has happened here since 9/11, and what we needed to have happen, is that the old stovepipes have dissolved and we have military, civilian, CIA, FBI, each with a focus, working together.

For instance, the Army doctor who killed 13 people at Fort Hood, our committee did an investigation in that case. He was actually communicating with the radical cleric Awlaki in Yemen over the Internet. That was picked up by international intelligence operatives. Part of the story is it wasn't transferred effectively to the Army so they could grab him before he

committed the mass murder at Fort Hood.

But I have to say for the record, the primary responsibility for counterterrorism now in the United States is with the FBI that has developed an extraordinary capability since 9/11. But it works very closely with the CIA, gathering international intelligence, NSA, homeland security, and the military.

Mr. GRAHAM. As a team effort.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Right.

Mr. GRAHAM. Let's imagine a scenario next week where we find an al-Qaida cell exists that is planning a series of attacks against the United States, and within that cell we have some American citizens and we have people who have come here who are noncitizens.

Would the Senator agree with me, since Congress has designated cooperating or collaborating with al-Qaida to be an act of war, that entire cell could be held as enemy combatants and questioned by our intelligence community as to what they know about the attack and questioned on future attacks?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. That certainly should be the case, and we have had this circumstance in reality. They are all part of the same enemy. In the case the Senator posits, they have all been part of the same plot to attack the American people.

Mr. GRAHAM. So would the Senator agree with me that the current law is very clear that anytime an American citizen joins the enemy force, they can be held as an enemy combatant; that is the law?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. That is the law. As the Senator has said and Chairman LEVIN has said several times in the debate, there may be some in the Chamber who don't like it, but that is what the U.S. Supreme Court has said very clearly.

Mr. GRAHAM. If we capture an American citizen as part of this cell and we can't hold them as an enemy combatant for intelligence-gathering purposes, does domestic criminal law allow us to hold someone for an indefinite period of time to gather military intelligence?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. No.

Mr. GRAHAM. Does domestic criminal law focus on the wrongdoing of the actor, based on a specific event, when we are trying to resolve a dispute between the wrongdoer and the victim?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Yes, it does. The Senator is making a very important point. It goes back to the colloquy the Senator from New Hampshire and I had, which is, when we capture an enemy combatant, we do so for two reasons: One is to get that enemy off the battlefield, the second is to gather intelligence. Sometimes the second purpose is more important than the first because it can lead us to other plots against the American people.

Mr. GRAHAM. Does the Senator agree with me the reason the Supreme Court has recognized that an American citizen could be held as an enemy combatant if they collaborate with an